

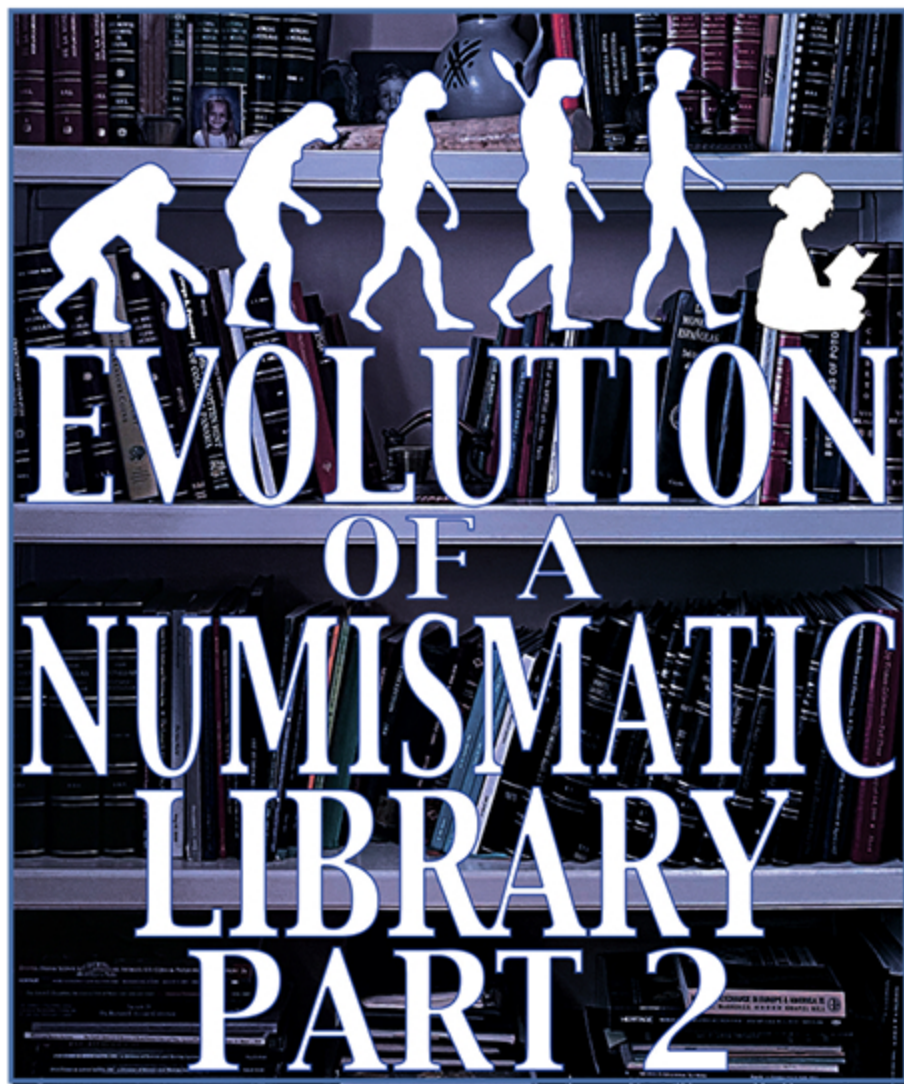
THE Asylum

VOL. 38 NO. 3



AUTUMN 2020

Quarterly Journal of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society • COINBOOKS.ORG





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happiness.*

Vincent Starrett
1886-1974



THE Asylum

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Numismatic Bibliomania Society

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NBS Membership/Subscriptions: *The Asylum* is mailed to all NBS Members. Membership is \$40.00 inside the United States, \$60.00 outside the U.S., \$25 for digital-only and \$10 Youth Membership. New members receive one back issue plus all new issues upon publication. Requests for membership and change of address should be submitted to the Treasurer at the address below.

Submissions: *The Asylum* (ISSN 1552-1931) is published in four issues per year. Submissions should be sent to the editor at nbsasylum@gmail.com. Authors, please put your name(s) and contact information on all submitted material. All accepted manuscripts become the property of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society. For more information, please contact the editor.

Sponsorship/Advertising rates

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Half page	\$75	5.5 x 4 inches
Quarter page	\$40	2.75 x 4 inches

*A 10% discount may be applied for a full-year commitment. A 10% discount is available for NBS members and community organizations.

Deadlines for Submissions and Advertising:

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Summer Issue (No. 2) May 1

Autumn Issue (No. 3) August 17 (After ANA)
Winter Issue (No. 4) November 1

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Tom Harrison
NBS President

Message from the President

Due to Covid-19 the NBS membership was not able to gather in person at the summer ANA Convention for the first time in our 40 plus year history. However, thanks to the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Educational Society and NBS Vice-President Len Augsburger a Zoom meeting was held and the entire membership had an opportunity to virtually attend our General Meeting. The meeting was highlighted by the announcement of this year's *Asylum* author award winners, an informative presentation by Lianna Spurrier detailing how to bring a book from finished manuscript to print and Treasurer Chuck Heck's financial and membership report. Again this year I want to share a sincere word of gratitude with David and Maria Fanning for accepting, cataloging and conducting our all-important benefit mail bid auction. Together our generous donors and enthusiastic bidders raised \$7035 for the NBS! Thanks everyone for your continued commitment to the financial stability of the NBS. Please be sure to read Joel Orosz's detailed account of the meeting in this issue.

It was announced that Len Augsburger and Joel Orosz received the distinguished Numismatic Literary Guild Clemy Award. The award is presented in recognition of writing skill, dedication to numismatics, a sense of humor and a dedication to the Numismatic Literary Guild.

Congratulations to Editor Maria Fanning and this year's contributing authors to *The Asylum* for receiving first place in the ANA Outstanding Club Publications competition in the specialty category. Kudos to everyone who contributed to this year's special theme issue "Evolution of a Numismatic Library." Your accounts provided a unique opportunity to visit so many of your libraries and learn about your fascinating collecting journeys. Thank you all for your enthusiastic responses and the great photos. All of your efforts continue to make *The Asylum* one of the premier numismatic publications.

As the NBS podcast Bibliotalk enters its second year, I am delighted to report that the Board has approved having Bibliotalk be presented bimonthly rather than quarterly for the coming year. The most recent podcast features Dan Hamelberg relating fascinating stories from his incredible collecting career and his sage collecting advice. If you have not had an opportunity to listen to the current Bibliotalk be sure to access it and all the previous podcasts on the NBS website at coinbooks.org. I want to give a shout-out to Len for coordinating, Lianna for producing and our interviewees for making these entertaining and informative podcasts possible.

May your numismatic library provide investigation, discovery and, most of all, enjoyment.



Treasurer's Report 2020

By Chuck Heck, NBS Treasurer

I am sure that all members understand that the NBS is organized as a not-for-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Ohio and has been determined by the Internal Revenue Service to qualify as a 501(c)(3) Public Charity.

We are required to make our annual financial statements available to any member upon request. Simply email me at **NBStreasurer2019@gmail.com** and I will email you a copy of the 2019 Balance Sheet and Income Statement.

Our only asset is Cash and the current balance is approximately \$31,000 of which \$10,000 is placed in a short-term certificate of deposit. In 2019 we experienced a small loss of \$475 which was anticipated due to additional costs related to Awards and Printing costs. Currently, Membership Dues are ahead of budget and overall expenses are under-budget.

NBS is a membership organization with *The Asylum*, the quarterly journal, being the largest expense. With annual Membership Dues of approximately \$8,600 and *Asylum* expenses averaging between \$13,000 to \$16,000 you can see that dues alone are not self-supporting. NBS relies heavily on the generosity of member donations and the annual Charitable Book Auction. Any donation to the NBS will qualify as a potential charitable deduction on federal and state tax returns.

Donations can be sent directly to the NBS at PO Box 2058, Bluffton, SC 29910 or through PayPal by using the email address **NBStreasurer2019@gmail.com**. All donations are acknowledged with a receipt sent to the donor.

The NBS Board thanks everyone for their continued support.



Support Your NBS

Established in 1979, the Numismatic Bibliomania Society's purpose is to stimulate interest in collecting numismatic literature and cultivate cooperation among collectors and researchers. The NBS has a rich history of generous members who have supported its mission over the years.

The NBS would be truly grateful for your donation to help sustain our role in the numismatic community. As a 501(c)3 organization, all donations to the NBS are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

***Become a Sustaining Member or
make a one-time donation today.***

Numismatic Bibliomania Society

41st Annual Meeting

*Saturday, August 29, 2020, 11:00 am Via Zoom During
Inaugural Newman Numismatic Symposium*

By Joel J. Orosz

The 41st annual meeting of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society was unprecedented in two not ways. It was the first not held during a convention of the American Numismatic Association, and the first not held as a face-to-face meeting, but rather, over the Zoom web meeting application. These innovations were necessitated by the global pandemic of Covid-19, forcing the ANA to cancel its 2020 convention, which had been scheduled in Pittsburgh from August 4-8, 2020. NBS Vice President Len Augsburger, with the financial support of the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society (EPNNE), promptly organized the inaugural Newman Numismatic Portal Symposium, held August 28-30, 2020 entirely via Zoom, and invited the NBS to hold its 2020 annual meeting on this platform. This alternative not only allowed the annual meeting to survive, but to thrive, for with 42 participants, it was among the best-attended annual meetings of the past decade.

President Tom Harrison called the meeting to order, and thanked VP Augsburger and EPNNE for providing the NBS with a Zoom platform for our annual meeting. The President's first item of business was a reminder to listen to the NBS's new series, Bibliotalk: The Coin Book Lover Podcast. Hosted by Lianna Spurrier (about whom much more will be said later), the podcasts feature NBS members discussing their favorite aspects of numismatic literature. The four podcasts completed are:



NBS President Tom Harrison at the NBS Annual Meeting on Zoom

1. "Louisville vs. Lawrenceville," with Joel J. Orosz, November 19, 2019
2. "300 Linear Feet of Books," with George F. Kolbe, March 4, 2020
3. "The ANS Library," with David Hill, May 25, 2020
4. "A Gengerke Set," with Dan Hamelberg, August 14, 2020

Only his overweening modesty prevents your reporter from commenting at length about the incisive insights and delightful witticisms shared by every NBS Podcast interviewee.

Awards

President Harrison then announced the major awards won by NBS members during 2020:

Len Augsburger and Joel J. Orosz, the Clemy Award from the Numismatic Literary Guild

Lianna Spurrier, Best World Coins Article (1500-Date), from the Numismatic Literary Guild; and Best Short Video, from the Numismatic Literary Guild

The Asylum, edited by Maria Fanning, Outstanding Club Publication, Specialty Category, from the American Numismatic Association

The Outstanding Club Publication Award from the ANA is a just and fitting recognition for the superb editing and graphic layout that Maria has brought to *The Asylum* since taking the Editor's chair in 2016.



Kingsley Hong



Jim Neiswinter

The 2020 NBS Literary Awards, as voted by the NBS membership:

JACK COLLINS AWARD, FOR BEST FIRST-TIME ARTICLE IN *THE ASYLUM*: Kingsley Hong, for "A Journey to the Bindery," published in the Winter, 2019 issue.

JOEL J. OROSZ AWARD, FOR BEST ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN *THE ASYLUM*: Jim Neiswinter, for "Written History of 1793 Cents," published in the Autumn, 2019 issue.

Congratulations to the writers of these exceptional articles.



Lianna Spurrier giving her talk “Final Draft to Printed Book” at the NBS Annual Meeting on Zoom

Lianna Spurrier on publishing a numismatic book

President Harrison then introduced the Speaker, Lianna Spurrier. A coin collector since age 11, Lianna is also a novelist, the host of “Bibliotalk,” NLG award-winning author and filmmaker, and, as Creative Director for Numismatic Marketing at Numismatic Media, served as a key consultant to the Newman Numismatic Portal in the planning and execution of the NNP Symposium. Her presentation, aimed at the authors among the NBS membership, was entitled “Final Draft to Printed Book.”

For those seeking to publish, the first question is “when is your manuscript final?” Lianna suggested that the details are all-important. Everything from italicized or bolded words, to paragraph placement and page breaks, must be precisely as you want them to appear in the final book. Have the manuscript proofread by someone besides yourself; it is worth the investment to hire a professional proofreader.

The second question revolves around the layout and captions of illustrations. The services of a professional photographer are desirable, but if you do it yourself, be sure to use a white background, and avoid the use of the zoom function on a phone camera, which merely crops the image without improving the quality of the resulting photo. If using photos from the web, be sure to make the proper attributions, get permission to publish them, and pay any applicable fees. Generally, photos need to be high resolution (at least 300 d.p.i.), in order to properly reproduce.

Lianna then discussed the trade-offs among four different methods of numismatic publication:

Self-Publishing: Gives the author complete control over the process, and costs are generally low, but the author must do all of the work, which requires considerable technical skill.

Newman Numismatic Portal: The author gives up some control, but needs to do relatively little work, and costs to author range from 0 to a few hundred dollars. However, no physical book is produced.

Numismatic Media: The author gives up some control, but needs to do relatively little work, and a physical book may be produced. Costs to author, however, are significant, from \$2,500 to \$10,000.

Traditional Publisher: The author gives up some control, but has no out-of-pocket costs. However, the manuscript must be accepted for publication.

This is only a précis of Lianna's presentation; readers are encouraged to watch the recorded NBS Annual Meeting on NNP to get the full details of her highly informative presentation.

Treasurer Report

NBS Secretary-Treasurer Chuck Heck delivered the financial report for 2019. The NBS currently has 321 Regular, 62 Life, and 13 Honorary members. There was a loss of \$473 in 2019, but the balance sheet remains healthy, with \$31,000 in the operating account. It costs about \$16,000 per year to print and mail *The Asylum*, and membership dues bring in nearly \$9,000 per year.

That gap of approximately \$7,000 is currently filled by the annual NBS Benefit Auction, ads in *The Asylum*, and donations. Chuck reminded us that since achieving 501(c)(3) status from the Internal Revenue Service, charitable gifts to the NBS are deductible from federal income taxes at the same rate as gifts to other public charities, such as universities and hospitals.

Chuck explained that the recent loss of the \$5,000 that the American Numismatic Association was paying annually to send *The E-Sylum* to their membership will need to be addressed; if not, at current rates of expenditure, in 3.5 years, the NBS cash reserves will be exhausted. To avoid that undesirable outcome, Chuck recommends a modest dues increase of \$5 (from \$40 to \$45 per year).

Chuck finished by addressing ideas to save money, and to increase fundraising. The idea to cut costs by ceasing print publication of *The Asylum* would not be desir-



NBS Treasurer Chuck Heck at the NBS Annual Meeting on Zoom

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able for a club of collectors of the printed word. The idea to increase fundraising by adding a "Give Now" button to the NBS website would make the NBS liable to 37 different solicitation requirements in various States, making for a compliance nightmare. Revenue may be increased by soliciting members on the website, or by asking the general public for support. He suggested that we continue to man club tables when conventions resume again, and that we encourage each NBS member to recruit at least one new member.

President Harrison closed the meeting with a reminder that the NBS Benefit Auction would close on August 31, and thanked David and Maria Fanning for cataloging and running the auction and for mailing the lots to winning bidders. Maria also received thanks for her successful strategies for generating more articles for *The Asylum*. Tom's final sentiment was "See you next year—in person—at Rosemont!"



Ancient Coins in Early American Auctions, 1869–1939

A new book by David F. Fanning

A bibliography and analysis of American auction catalogues issued before the Second World War that feature photographically printed illustrations of ancient coins. Includes biographical material concerning the dealers whose catalogues are discussed, as well as a statistical analysis of the catalogues and supplementary information relevant to provenance research.



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Collector and Researcher

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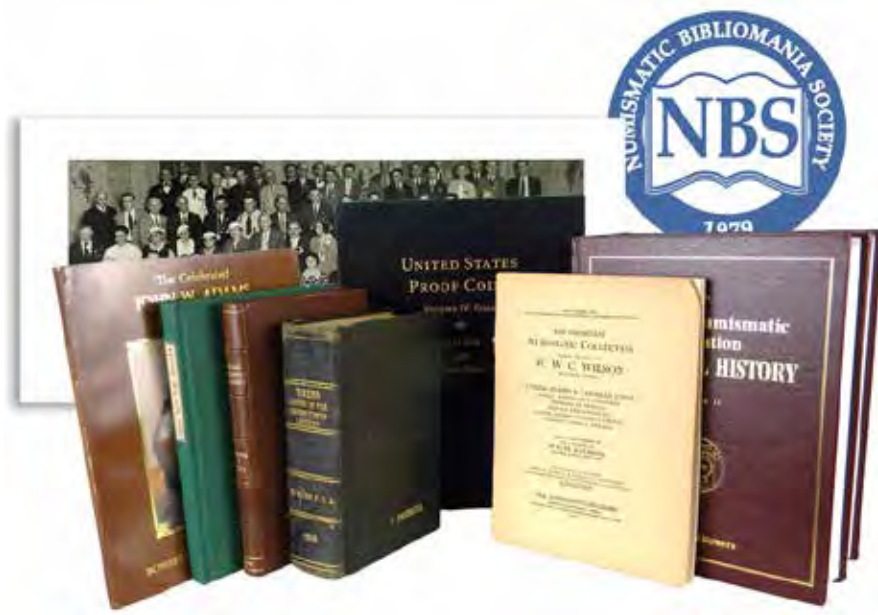
Joel J. Orosz, Numismatic Author and Historian

"Ancient Coins in Early American Auctions, 1869–1939 belongs in the library of all ancient coin collectors. The bios, the many plate photos, the tables and lists have a broad appeal and will be of major interest to all early American auction catalogue collectors as well."

Dan Hamelberg, Collector



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NBS Benefit Auction Results

By Tom Harrison

I am delighted to report again this year, the membership stepped forward to ensure the financial health of the NBS through their support of the benefit auction. Our generous donors, enthusiastic bidders and the cataloging efforts of David and Maria Fanning produced \$7035 for the treasury! The highlight of the auction was lot 14, Virgil Brand's copy of Thomas Elder's plated Wilson sale which drew the top bid of \$850.

Other highlights included lot 26, seven of the twelve scarce issues of C.E. Leal's *The American Nummatist* hammered for an impressive \$270, lot 40, a single issue of a scarce periodical produced by Charles Steigerwalt *The Coin Journal* brought \$100 and lot 13, a beautiful deluxe full leather-bound edition of John Dannreuther's *United States Proof Coins Volume 4: Gold*, brought \$450. In addition, lot 1, a well-preserved 1936 Minneapolis ANA Convention photograph realized \$300. Nearly 50 percent of the diverse 50 lot sale realized \$100 or more.

You can access the NBS benefit auction catalogs from 2017 to date on the Newman Numismatic Portal at <https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/auctioncompanydetail/512295>. I want to convey a sincere word of gratitude to our members who continue to share their time, talent and resources for the betterment of the NBS.



Congratulations to This Year's Award Winners!

*And many thanks to all NBS members who contributed
to our award-winning publications!*

The Asylum Award Winners



Kingsley Hong
"A Journey to the Bindery"
(v.37 n.4)

Jack Collins Award
Best Article by a
First-Time Author in 2019



Jim Neiswinter
"Written History of 1793
Cents" (v.37 n.3)

Joel J. Orosz Award
Best Article of 2019

The Asylum

First Place

**Outstanding Specialty
Numismatic Publication**

**American Numismatic
Association**



The Hedley Betts Library

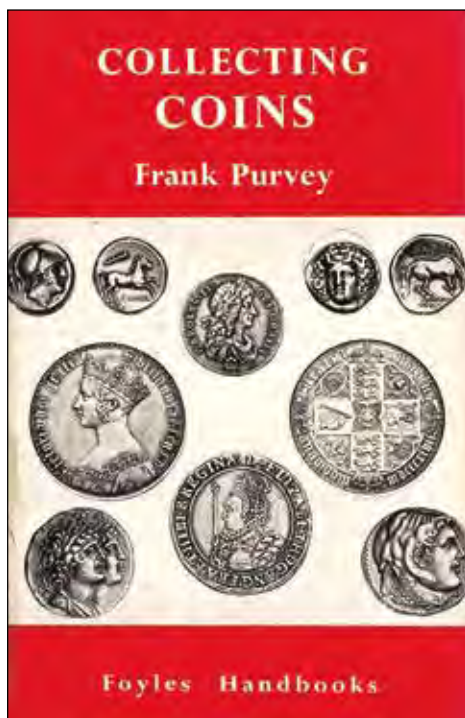
By Hedley Betts

I grew up in England and as a boy I collected everything from rocks and fossils (my father trained as a geologist) to birds' eggs and stamps and coins. It was coins that really caught my interest. My father gave me my first coin book, "Collecting Coins" by Frank Purvey, when I was 11. I still have it, over fifty years later. I soon subscribed to coin magazines and would hunt the shelves of book stores and libraries for numismatic books. As I visited coin dealers, antique stores and market stalls in the search for coins, I came across tokens and medals. I was particularly taken by the artistry and historical significance of medals and they became my primary collecting interest.

While I was still in high school, I would visit B.A. Seaby in London, where Peter Jones ran their book department. Even though I was a student with a limited budget, Peter was very generous with his time. He recommended books and provided advice about pursuing a career as a dealer. I purchased my first medal book, the 1904 edition of volume one of Forrer's *Biographical Dictionary of Medallists*, from Douglas Saville at Spink & Son. He was also very generous with his time. (I promised myself that I would eventually add the full set of eight volumes to my library). For many years Douglas was the primary source for the books in my library.

When I left school, I went to work for a leading London coin dealer. I added the complete set of the *Biographical Dictionary of Medallists* to my library in 1973, when I received a copy of the Burt Franklin reprint as my Christmas bonus. After working for the dealer for three years, I left and started my own business, specializing in medals, initially working from home, but eventually moving to an office on Regent Street in London. During that period I met my future wife, an American, who was traveling in Europe. When we decided to get married, I moved to the United States.

I reduced my inventory of medals, by placing many of them for sale by auction through Sotheby's, but I kept my library mostly intact and had it shipped to the States, where



My first book *Collecting Coins* by Frank Purvey. A present from my father in 1965



My set of the Burt Franklin reprint of Forrer's *Biographical Dictionary of Medallists* alongside four original volumes



The oldest volume in my library *Thesaurus Numismaticus Modernum Huius Seculi*, published in Nuremberg in the early 18th century.

Some pictures of my library



I re-established my business. In the late 1980s I completed a master's degree and embarked on a new career, eventually becoming a division director in Santa Clara County's Health and Hospital system. During that time I continued to collect and deal in medals. While I was in graduate school I sold a large portion of my library. I gradually replaced many of the works that I sold, but there were a few I later regretted selling and have not been able to replace. For example, I sold my complete set of *Coins and Medals* magazines which I had accumulated, starting with its first issue, in my boyhood.

The central theme of my rather crowded library is medallic art. I have a total of 107 three-foot-long shelves of books, which are arranged by categories such as: by country, biographies of medallists, books on medals related to specific themes, exhibition catalogues, sales catalogues, journals, and ancillary subjects such as history and art. It is decorated rather eclectically with medals, prints of medals, pictures, model soldiers (another holdover from my childhood) and a few cobwebs.



The Resources Behind My Coins

By Lance Casagrande

One of the things that I had neglected during my coin collecting over time was to have the resources behind them. Regretting all the missed opportunities (out of print, hard to find and out of my price range) to possibly acquire some books, I started building a numismatic library. Sure we got the internet, which does help a lot. They both have their pros and cons. However, I prefer page flipping over waiting for the webpage to refresh and having a physical copy over losing your online data.

I also enjoy reading numismatic material when I have some free time (If not being busy with the lovely Mrs. and our 2-and-a-half-year-old-son).

Around ten years ago, I realized the need to build up reference material. I started looking into some great books and lucked out on a few which I am very thankful for.

Running into Dan Gosling (former RCNA President and current Librarian) after our local show, we had a chat over the reception. I was blown away by hearing him explain to my wife and me why he got into books. It makes so much sense now. I real-

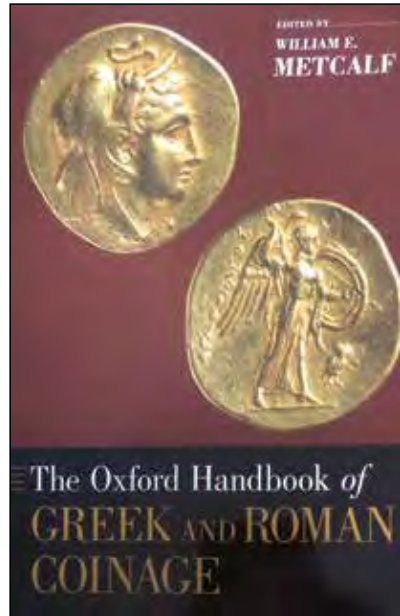


ized that often we may never have the “ideal” coin in our collection, however with great photos, and the information behind them it feels just like we own them.

As for the library, it’s scattered among those Ikea cube shelves. They are very deep (you can store two rows), so all the books are placed three-dimensional “Tetris” style to cram in as many as possible.

The *E-Sylum* gave me the idea to photograph them all together. (Great publication might I add, from learning what is out there to more background information.) I realize that it’s tiny compared to others, and I may not have the deepest pockets or space (the Mrs. keeps saying “NO MORE BOOKS!!!”), however I am very proud of it. The book that I am reading at the moment is *The Oxford Handbook of Greek and Roman Coinage* edited by William E. Metcalf.

Thank you for allowing me to share my numismatic library with all of you. I wish everyone to be safe out there from the pandemic!



My Numismatic Library

By Mike Costanzo

My numismatic library is composed of works mainly associated with the study of U.S. coinage. The masters are well presented. Q. David Bowers owns nearly an entire shelf, and R.S. Yeoman, Walter Breen and Eric P. Newman are also close at hand. The latest Red Books are also represented, and I generally like to keep an edition handy marking every decade (they come in handy when mulling over a coin purchase and seeing what I could have bought it for back when). I also like the “Guide Book” series of particular denominations and designs. At first I thought perhaps they were a bit





overkill, but you can never really learn enough. About five years ago I started submitting to *The Numismatist* and since my articles have appeared here and there. I was later honored to have Dennis Tucker and Q. David Bowers use material which was acknowledged in their books, and those books sit on my shelves. It's a wonderful feeling not just to see your name included in a bibliography, but knowing you've contributed to something you've enjoyed for many years. A carved wooden falcon sits on the top of my bookcase. Falcons are considered birds of wisdom, and it's only fitting that one should guard my collection. A nearby antique walking stick reminds me of the journey books can take you on.

A few years ago my wife and I tired of cheap Wal-Mart bookcases and splurged of a pair of custom built pine bookcases. They curtailed my coin and book buying for a while, but in the end were worth it. Great books look great in a great bookcase (my wife has the other bookcase for her cookbooks). At least now I know who to call when I run out of shelf space.



The Constantly Changing Library

By David F. Fanning

My numismatic library has taken many forms throughout the years. This is partly because my collecting interests have shifted over time, and partly because I've usually been involved in the commercial end of our area of the hobby to one degree or another—so the line between “personal library” and “inventory” has not always been starkly apparent. Shelves fill and empty much as the tides roll in and out, with some books remaining in place for years on end while others seem to be whisked away just as soon as they appear.

My strongest and most consistent areas of interest have been in early American numismatics. When I was a child, that mostly meant large cents; as an adult, it's meant mostly those coins and medals, tokens and whatnots, that we throw together under the term “colonials.” The book that got me started was *Penny Whimsy*. By “got me started,” I mean it was the first coin book I ever acquired that was out of print, not readily available, and expensive (at least from my perspective as a 15 year old in 1986). My early library grew up around that book, as did my early inventory.

When I was 16, I ran an ad in *Penny-Wise*, the Early American Coppers publication, offering half a dozen publications for sale, the best of which was a first edition of Newcomb on middle and late-date large cents with the scarce (“very rare,” I called it) addenda sheet laid in. I wanted \$100 for it, which is about what I'd want now. I suspect I wanted to keep it for myself and priced it ambitiously so that I'd be happy with either result: getting to keep it or selling a book for \$100, which would have been a very big deal to me at the time.

My library in my years as a full-time bookseller is a mix of the pedestrian and the special. (I should note here that I am not talking about my working library of bibliographies and the like, upon which I draw to write my catalogues, but my personal numismatic library.) I keep a working library of books that pertain to the coins I collect and study. It's good for colonials and early copper, but mostly practical. I have copies of the major large cent books, including a few that are only infrequently consulted as references, such as Clapp on 1798–1799 (my favorite of the classic cent books) and a fine 1883 Andrews. Nothing terribly rare, though. In fact, the best large cent book I have is a copy of the usually unimpressive third edition of Newcomb that has been extensively annotated by someone I won't mention because I don't want anyone to try to talk me out of it. Yet.

A strong interest in early Canadian tokens has led me to assemble what I'd have to say is a nice library on the subject, with a number of rare and obscure titles that a specialist would admire. Indeed, this is probably the best part of my library in terms of assorted rarities and bibliophilic delights. Besides the works of Breton and Leroux, McLachlan and Courteau, Sandham and Wood, I have some genuinely special items, including originals of McColl's *List of Canadian, British, United States and Foreign Coins and Pattern Pieces...* and Grenny's *Catalogue of Scarce Communion Tokens Used by Presbyterian Churches of the Dominion of Canada*. I enjoy my Canadian library all



the more because so often I find that information in these out-of-date and obscure publications just isn't found elsewhere.

A mercurial interest in Roman coins has caused that part of my library to grow and shrink over the years, as enthusiasm waxes and wanes. A serious interest in early Islamic coins led me to build a very nice focused library on that complex and fascinating subject. When I decided a few years ago that I had hit a wall with my collecting goals in that area, I decided to sell the coins and, a short while later, felt that I might as well write up a fixed price list of that part of my library. After compiling 161 lot descriptions and having my long-suffering wife photograph the highlights and lay out the catalogue, I had the bright idea of seeing if anyone might want to purchase the entire group outright. I could only think of two possibilities, so I asked them both and one said yes—resulting in a Kolbe & Fanning publication you probably don't have if you're not one of those two people.

All booksellers have a tendency to hold onto special items until the right person for them comes along. Most of the time, when I acquire a very good book, it's easy to think of a few people who might be interested buyers. But not always. Occasionally something comes along that I just love and admire and think is special, but which I either suspect or find out has few additional admirers. Books like that have a tendency to sit on my shelf until the right person comes along—that person who will love it even more than I do. At that point the pain of selling it becomes a pleasure at having brought together the right person and the right book. In the meantime, I get to enjoy it as part of my ever-evolving library.



French and Great-Granddaughter Art

By Joseph Foster

When I built my house 42 years ago, I had a library on the first floor. It is 10 feet by 12 feet with a closet and one 12-foot wall with floor-to-ceiling bookcases built in. Well, I outgrew that about 15 or so years ago and decided to move into the living room and dining room, as it wasn't used much as everyone tended to use the family room. When I was married, my ex and I would have friends in the living room with kids in the family room, but no marriage and no wife now!

The living room is 14 feet by 19 feet and the dining room is 13 feet by 13 feet. As you can see by the photos, pretty well full of French Regime literature. I like glass door bookcases, as you can tell. Most are old, some still with old bubble glass! Everything I collect is medal related and French Regime and histories. I do have a bookcase full of fur-trade literature and one with 1908 *Encyclopedia Britannica* and other references. The walls are full of prints, paintings, and granddaughter and great-granddaughter art work, as is the door to the library!





From an Afterthought to a Library

By Kellen Hoard

When I first began writing this article, my mind got stuck on one word: evolution. How could I write about the evolution of my numismatic library when it had only substantially existed for about four years? After all, biological evolution takes millions of years and some numismatic bibliophiles have quite possibly been collecting since the dinosaurs roamed the earth; under what definition can my library even count as “evolved?” But in pondering this question, I realized that any library, no matter how small or new or misguidedly focused on the writings of Joel Orosz, has to have had some sort of change and growth, including mine. Thus, my article.

I don’t exactly remember what the first numismatic books in my library were; most likely, they were some books for beginners from Whitman. However, my first exposure to more in-depth numismatic books came via one of the 2015 ANA National Money Show Stack’s Bowers auctions in Portland. At the age of 11, it was my first national convention, and I decided to attend the rarities night despite the fact I was ten thousand dollars short of even the least expensive item; I just wanted to experience the atmosphere. Post-sale, I approached one of the Karstedts (though for the life of me I cannot remember which), and thanked her for the auction. We began talking, and she was kind enough to put me in contact with Q. David Bowers. Shortly afterward, he sent me some of his published works, and the seeds of a very early numismatic library were planted.

My book collection stagnated somewhat until August 2016, when I attended the World’s Fair of Money in Anaheim. There, two seminal events for me occurred. First, I tried a convention center hot dog for the first time and quickly learned my lesson. Second, I attended my first NBS meeting and met some truly fantastic people. This was what really brought my focus around to numismatic literature, and I started getting more involved in the field. I became a regular website user of Kolbe & Fanning, published a couple of articles in *The Asylum*, and set about reading the many new pieces I was acquiring. It was not until January 2017, however, that my library began to have direction. For my birthday that month, my grandmother gifted me a copy of Walter Breen’s Encyclopedia. Shortly afterward, I discovered the NBS Wiki, which contains the organization’s list of the top 100 pieces of U.S. numismatic literature. Which book tops that list? Breen’s. It was then and there that I decided to pursue the top 100.

On the list, some pieces are much harder to acquire than others. *Numisma* by Frossard, for example, is significantly more difficult to purchase than Rulau’s and Fuld’s *Medallic Portraits of Washington*. There are also some listings which, due to sheer volume, I determined to be exempt from my quest; see *Coin World* and *Numismatic News*. With this in mind, I began searching. Since then, I have acquired 65 of them on an extremely limited budget. Completing the list is currently my main bibliophilic priority. This is not to say I have not acquired many other pieces of literature since then; what kind of bibliomaniac would I be if I didn’t? Through numismatic

booksellers, private transactions, eBay auctions, and, crucially, ANA Summer Seminar book sales, I have assembled hundreds of other books. Also, I have assembled a nearly complete collection of Red Books; if you asked me how, I wouldn't be able to say. It seems like I only just purchased my first one yesterday.

This last sentence encapsulates in a nutshell my library's evolution. Bit by bit I grew my library and it changed as I learned more about the significance, value, and intrigue of the different pieces. I learned to appreciate each for its educational value (or lack thereof). As I went through the acquisition process, it seemed like my library was barely growing. But now as I look back, somewhere along the route I went from one shelf on one half-sized bookcase to many shelves on several full-sized ones. Somewhere, I went from one Red Book to three shelves' worth. Somewhere, my books went from an afterthought to a library (and one not solely dedicated to Joel Orosz, either).



My Numismatic Library

By Tony James

What a can of worms you have opened, asking for the evolution of my library!

It commenced nearly four decades ago when I purchased my first coin. (I was lucky enough to have a dealer guide me in my early collecting.) I soon found that a specialist catalogue was not just desirable but essential, as the general catalogues gave little information on my genre of collecting. Libraries grow whether you want them to or not.

A year passed and another catalogue was added to the shelf, which soon become shelves. A change of collecting habits means a change in the search for information, hence another shelf for the new topic. Of course a switch to a related genre means keeping the original books and catalogues; I mean, who knows when one will need that reference again?

I was lucky to have had a mentor for my library, as whenever he saw a new book published he asked if I wanted a copy too, the postage being only slightly higher for an extra copy. Dragged kicking and screaming, complaining of cost, postage, etc, I built my library, as I soon realised that while there is a certain amount of information on the web, numismatic information is not a widely sought and published topic compared to other subjects.

Today the library fills shelving 170cm high by 190cm wide. (5ft 7in x 6ft 3in). Oh sorry, I forgot the two layers on top of the shelving and the other book shelf 170 high by 120 wide (5ft 7in x 3ft 11in). Plus the storage for magazines from 1996 to date (I write for the *Australasian Coin and Banknote Magazine*).

It was in the late 1990s that I crossed to the dark side and became a coin and banknote dealer. However, I may have stopped collecting those small pieces of paper and die-stamped metal planchets, but the acquisition of numismatic books has continued unabated; in fact, it has increased, to stay abreast of the new discoveries, additional research and further information regarding the deeper side of numismatic life.

Now, I thank all those who insisted, in my early days of collecting, that I buy the book, and who emphasised that knowledge was power and the best way to save money while collecting. Sitting at the computer and compiling a list of items for sale or writing my column for the magazine, I thank so many who have come before me, that I can push

back from the desk, turn and reach for the relevant tome and have the information immediately to hand.

This is not to denigrate the use of the web and electronic storage; those pages remain open on the computer 12 out of 24, and I still need a bigger desk to enable me to have more than four books open at the same time, as well as equipment for cataloguing!

Regretfully no picture of the subject matter is available, sorting the shelves is the next task in this isolated life which is restricted to online marketing, the absence of meetings and cancellation of coin shows for the foreseeable future.

I still do not understand how a collector will spend hundreds of dollars on a coin or note, but refuse to part with tens of dollars for a book on the subject and then ask questions.

I can still take my books to bed which my wife refuses to share with the coin and banknote albums!



The David W. Lange Library

When the appeal came for photos of members' numismatic libraries, my own was at the office, while I've been working mostly from home. Since that time nearly all of my books have been brought home, leaving only the variety references at the office where I need them to attribute and authenticate coins.

With this decentralization of my books, I'm sending photos of my other numismatic "library." This is my collection of vintage coin albums and folders. I believe it to be the grandest such endeavor ever attempted, and it is nearly complete for everything known to me after almost forty years of collecting these items. My collection of coin boards is less photogenic, since they all are stored within binders, so these are omitted.

The shelves also are decorated with various coin hobby ephemera, which is another area of collecting for me. I especially like mechanical gadgets for examining, sorting and grading coins, and the photos reveal numerous such pieces.

Bookshelf 1: Four shelves holding the complete issue of Whitman Bookshelf albums are followed by a complete set of Don Hirschhorn's Treat brand folders and albums. On that same shelf are the President Coin Corporation albums. On the bottom shelf are several examples of the very rare Ticker & Treasure line of plastic coin albums, as well as a sampling of the black coin albums by Bigelow and Hollander.

Bookshelf 2: The first shelf has an overflowing set of Wayte Raymond's Popular albums. Shelves two and three feature Meghrig's clone of the Popular album, the Green Book, aka the G Line. The fourth shelf includes a partial set of the very rare Meghrig





Merit albums, followed by several regional brands of coin folders from the hobby's boom years of the late 1950s and early '60s. These include the coin-shaped Hobbies Unlimited folders, several titles of which are extremely common from a Mint-condition hoard, while other titles are rare or entirely unknown today. On the fifth shelf are assorted coin collecting kits from the 1960s, including the rare Deluxe Whitman kits (red and blue boxes). Below these are the complete line of H. E. Harris folders and albums from 1962-71. On the bottom shelf are the Continental albums produced by Ervin J. Felix, followed by the original red-covered issue of Dansco albums that followed when that company bought out Felix's product. Finally, there's a selection of custom titles printed by Dansco for other marketers during the 1960s.

Bookshelf 3: This bookcase holds a partial collection of M. L. Beistle's extremely rare Unique coin holders, the very first coin albums. This is followed by the most complete collection known to me of Wayte Raymond's National Coin Album, as Beistle's product was rebranded by Raymond in 1931. Also seen is the first part of a complete set of Meghrig's clone of the National Album—the American Album.

Bookshelf 4: The two lowermost shelves conclude the Meghrig American line, though the shelf above has some overflow of binders made in imitation of the Raymond product by other manufacturers. Shelves one through four hold the first part of a complete set of the Library of Coins and its little brother, the Treasury of Coins. The large, gray item on the fourth shelf is an overflow item—the very rare Coin & Currency Institute album for paper money. Barely visible behind this item and its neighbors are the elusive Meghrig Gem albums, that company's answer to the Library of Coins.

Bookshelf 5: The Library of Coins continues onto the first four shelves, as it includes four editions and all of their varieties. The blue coin folders that close out



the fourth shelf were published by Los Angeles coin dealer Joseph Oberwise, better known for its widely produced 11" x 14" coin boards. These folders date to 1940-48 and are much more scarce than the boards. The next shelf concludes the line of Megh-rig Gem albums, including several still in their original boxes. These are followed by a selection of the exceedingly rare plastic coin albums by Lee Charles Company (visualize Capital Plastics holders in book form). The last two shelves feature more overflow from the National and American lines, another Whitman Deluxe coin collecting kit and assorted numismatic memorabilia and tools.

Bookshelf 6: This is Dansco country. Its line of Dansco Bound folders is seemingly endless in the number of varieties found. These are followed by the three editions of Dansco Deluxe folders. There's also an assortment of more numismatic memorabilia and hardware, including dies and collars, as well as about ten different varieties of the wonderful Scan-O-Matic viewer than I coveted as a child. Unable to afford it then, I've since become quite indulgent. What looks like a National page standing upright is actually a homemade token holder fashioned by a young Eric Newman and

his father. The bottom shelf holds several other homemade coin boards and albums, though none of these are traceable to their makers. An amazing home-made album for Liberty Seated Dimes is visible on the third shelf.

Bookshelf 7: The first two shelves hold partial sets of various world coin folders, mostly from the UK, Scandinavia and Australia. I buy these when I can, though most offerings include enough coins to prohibit their purchase. I can buy the Australian folders on eBay for \$5-8, but then it costs \$30 for the shipping! The fourth shelf simply holds tools and literature that relate to my business selling books and coin boards/folders. The fifth shelf holds a selection of Crest coin albums made by Steveco, a company about which I've been able to find no information or ads whatsoever. The last shelf starts with a few examples of the exceedingly rare Dansco albums from the early 1940s. To their right are a very rare trio of albums for Philippine coins made by Aldo Basso in the 1960s, and these are followed by numerous factory-wrapped bundles of Treasury of Coins album pages.

Bookshelves 8 & 9: The last two bookcases are devoted exclusively to vintage Whitman products (the post-1978 items are in the Annex and are not shown). These are well known to all, but I don't know of anyone else collecting them comprehensively by editions and varieties. (My book on the subject was published this year). Among the related items shown are an assortment of coin collecting check lists, several printing plates, and numerous bundles of factory-wrapped folders in either dozen or half-dozen quantities. Of note are the green folders visible at the end of the third shelf in the narrow bookcase. These are the extremely rare Whitman-Hirschhorn folders for Irish coins that are entirely unknown to most Americans in the hobby and scarcely known in the UK and Republic.



NBS Bibliotalk

podcast with Lianna Spurrier

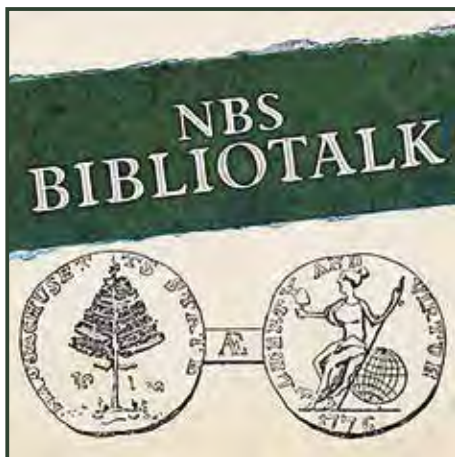
Episode 1: "Louisville vs. Lawrenceville" with Joel Orosz

Episode 2: "300 linear feet of Books" with George Kolbe

Episode 3: "The ANS Library" with David Hill

Episode 4: "A Gengerke Set" with Dan Hamelberg

Available on most podcast apps.



Building and Putting a Specialized Numismatic Research Library to Use

By W. David Perkins

In 1983 I started collecting coins again. This was about 13 years after graduating from college. I probably had a recent copy of the *Red Book* and a subscription to *Coin World* in my library at this time. Of course, as I was a collector, I saved all issues of *Coin World*.

I also purchased my first Early Dollar, a Choice XF 1800 B-13 (Bolender-13) Dollar, R-4 at a coin show in Minneapolis where I lived at the time. This led to purchasing a copy of Milferd H. Bolender's book *The Early United States Silver Dollars from 1798 to 1803*.

Before the 1980s ended I was a member of the American Numismatic Association (ANA), NBS, John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS), and the Liberty Seated Collector's Club (LSCC). I have complete sets of the *John Reich Journal* (JRCS), *The Asylum*, and *The Gobrecht Journal* (LSCC).

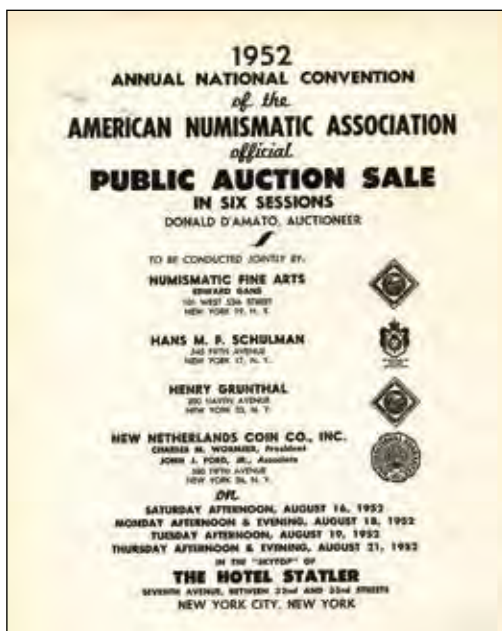
By the middle to late 1980s I was hooked on the early dollars and was collecting them by the marriage using Bolender's book.

I began collecting numismatic auction catalogs and began to search for catalogs

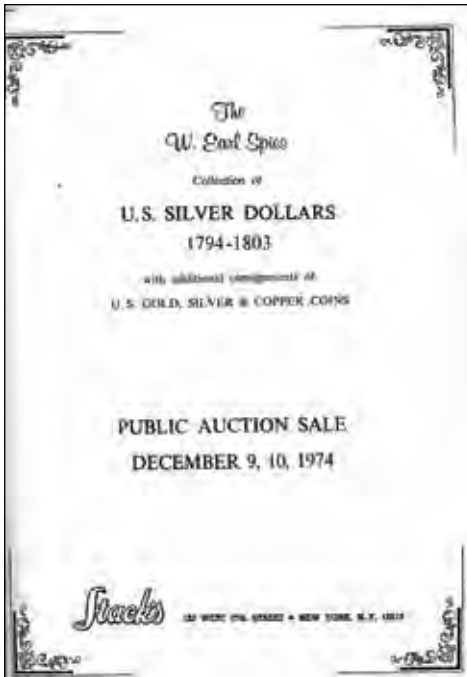


3114	MAX KAPLAN
3115	MAX KAPLAN
3116	S.H. FRIEDMAN
3117	EARL SPIES
3118	1952 NOT LISTED
3119	E. WEIDMANN
3120	FRANK H. STIELING
3121	MAX KAPLAN
3122	MAX KAPLAN
3123	EARL SPIES
3124	EARL SPIES
3125	EARL SPIES
3126	MAX KAPLAN
3127	1952 NOT LISTED
3128	EARL SPIES
3129	EARL SPIES
3130	EARL SPIES
3131	EARL SPIES
3132	EARL SPIES
3133	W. G. BALDENHOFER
3134	ALBERT N. MANTON
3135	1952 NOT LISTED
3136	1952 NOT LISTED
3137	MAX KAPLAN
3138	EARL SPIES
3139	305. SARY
3140	C.H. THOMSEN
3141	W. G. BALDENHOFER
3142	CHARLES C. RUBY
3143	MAX KAPLAN
3144	MAX KAPLAN

Here is a sample page of buyer's names by Lot for early dollars in the '52 ANA Sale. We see Spies, Stirling, Baldenhofer and Ruby's names. K. P. Austin bought Lot 3114 on the previous page. Buyer's names were courtesy of Francis D. Campbell and the American Numismatic Society (ANS).



Inside cover of the 1952 A.N.A. Sale. Note the sale was conducted by four coin firms and was held in New York City.



Cover of the Stack's catalog for *The W. Earl Spies Collection of U.S. Silver Dollars 1794 - 1803*. This is what I have termed a "Name Sale," this one with the name of the collector listed on the catalog cover with all the coins (early dollars) coming from the Spies Collection.



K. P. Austin's invoice from the Bolender 183rd Sale, the sale of Bolender's personal reference collection of early and other silver dollars. Austin bought all of the 1795 Dollars and two other Draped Bust Dollars. I also have W. Earl Spies copy of the 1952 Bolender Sale, annotated and with bids.

featuring rare early dollars and collections. Items I looked for included hardbound catalogs, named and/or priced catalogs, and books and catalogs with documents *laid in*. I've had quite a bit of success over the years as you will see.

As I studied the catalogs and Journals I realized from pedigrees, footnotes, and contributor names for numismatic books that there were more collectors of early dollars than there were "Name Sales" and/or public auction sales for the sale of these early dollar collections.

I began to find and contact former collectors of early dollars and/or members of their families.

I will highlight some of the information and documents acquired, centered around six early dollar enthusiasts that bid and won lots in the 1952 A.N.A. *Convention Sale of August 16th, 18th, 19th, 21st* ('52 ANA Sale). This is a great numismatic catalog to have in a numismatic library. Like the "Apostrophe Sales" of 1979 to 1989, this sale was conducted jointly by four firms. They were Numismatic Fines Arts, Hans M. F. Schulman, Henry Grunthal, and New Netherlands Coin, Co., Inc. All four firms were in New York City.

One of the key offerings in the '52 ANA Sale was the Homer Downing Large Cent

Collection. The sale had a large number of Leshner Dollars and early dollars 1795 to 1803, the "Property of O. K. Rumbel" of Mission, Texas. And important to my interests, there were three collections of early dollars, all attributed by Bolender numbers.

I don't recall how I became aware of this, but the ANS has a copy of the '52 ANA Sale catalog with buyer's names. I contacted ANS Librarian Francis D. Campbell in September 2004 and had the buyer's names for the early dollar lots copied and mailed to me.

From the buyer's names I have selected a half dozen collector and dealer names that connect to items in my specialized early dollar library and research over the years. The names I have chosen (in no particular order) are Frank M. Stirling, Charles C. Ruby, W. G. Baldenhofer, Kenneth "K. P." Austin, W. Earl Spies, and the Hollinbeck Coin Co. of Des Moines, IA. Each of these collectors and Hollinbeck Coin Co. purchased multiple early dollar lots in the sale.

Frank M. Stirling of Baton Rouge, LA was a collector of the early dollars 1794 to 1803 by die marriage, with a fondness for the die marriages of the 1794-5 Flowing Hair Dollars. He started collecting in the 1940s per a letter I have. I first came across Stirling's name in *The Numismatist*, December 1952, page 1176 where Bolender reported a new variety discovery for a 1795 Flowing Hair Dollar, giving credit for the discovery to Stirling,

The first discovery of a new major variety of an early silver dollar before 1804 has recently been made, two years after the publication of Bolender's standard reference book on the subject which was published in July 1950.

The credit for this new discovery goes to Frank M. Stirling, A.N.A. member number 10052...of Baton Rouge, La., and the thrills of his finding, and pride of ownership are making this specialty most interesting. Mr. Stirling is one of the most active collectors in this field.

I acquired a few "clues" over the years regarding Stirling's collection. The first was a listing approximately 75 coins from Stirling's early dollar collection that I had acquired as part of a miscellaneous lot of early dollar items purchased in the B&M Armand Champa Numismatic Library sale.

The second clue was found at the top of page 42 in the Heritage 1986 A.N.A. Mid-Winter Auction sale, February 20-22, 1986 by Heritage Numismatic Auctions, Inc.

The cataloger noted,

"These 25 early American dollars constitute the major portion of the collection of a famous American numismatist from Louisiana. Although HNAI was unable to use this gentleman's name, advanced Bolender collectors will decipher the owner's name due to the uniqueness of these properties. We trust that you will derive as much pleasure as we did in cataloguing them; and for those of you fortunate enough to acquire one of these treasures, rest assured that you will have found a heritage of numismatics that undoubtedly will be difficult to duplicate."

These 25 early dollars were from the collection of Frank M. Stirling of Baton Rouge, LA. The list I had earlier had about 75 different examples. The 25 Dollars in



Page one of a two-page letter and Want List dated May 25, 1957 from W. Earl Spies to Hollinbeck Coin Co.



Lot 232 in this September 1968 Lester Merkin public auction sale was a 1795 B-12a Flowing Hair Dollar. The lot description mentioned a piece ex. Bolender, Taylor, Kagin. I could not find much on a "Taylor" collection of early dollars until Art Kagin brought a copy of his 1959 Fixed Price List of the *America's Outstanding Collection of Silver Dollars for Sale at Fixed Prices*, the collection (per Art) of Emanuel Taylor. Today I have the Spies copy of this FPL in my library, annotated and with Lots ordered laid in.

the HNAI sale matched up extremely well to 25 coins on this list, thus leaving 50 or so more to track down.

The third piece of the puzzle came from Jules Reiver and with persistence I was able to track down a daughter and grandson. I eventually was hired by the family to appraise the remaining 50 or so early dollars. Again, the 50 matched the "remaining coins" on the list of 75.

When appraising the Stirling Collection, I was able to view Stirling's correspondence with many other collectors in the 1940s through 1980s. And best of all, the family gave me copies of all documents! They did not have any of his auction sale catalogs. I later learned Stirling had collected Plated Chapman Sales (as many do today). Stirling eventually sold these catalogs to Numismatist James Hayes.

In summary, Stirling's collection was never sold in a "Name Sale." Twenty-five of the 75 Dollars were sold at public auction but were not directly attributed to Stirling. Stirling's collection appears to have been about 75 early dollars in total. I have now recorded all 75 by Bolender number, with pedigrees.

Most of us who know the name Charles Ruby think of him as a collector of copper Large Cents. A smaller number knew Ruby collected the early dollars by die marriage.

Charles Ruby's own copy of Bolender's February 23, 1952 183rd Auction Sale, the sale of Bolender's personal reference collection of early and other silver dollars. [This was Lot 333 in George Frederick Kolbe's Auction Sale Seventy-Three, June 13, 1998.

This sale included Numismatic Literature from the Library of Charles Ruby.] This Bolender sale offered 183 Varieties of early dollars before 1804. Ruby placed “conservative bids” on many lots in the Bolender sale and was successful on some.

I purchased a group of Ruby’s auction catalogs, most likely in the Kolbe Auction Sale listed above. Ruby was successful on a number of early silver dollar lots in the ’52 ANA Sale based on the buyer’s names.

Ruby’s early dollar collection was sold in a “Name Sale” at public auction by Superior Galleries June 17 thru 22, 1974. I have his catalog and prices realized for this sale in my library.

W. G. Baldenhofer was a large buyer in the ’52 ANA Sale. He collected the early dollars by die marriage and was an aggressive buyer and bidder in auctions in the 1950s. Most will connect the name Baldenhofer to a 1955 Stack’s sale of the Farish Baldenhofer collection. I learned from a relative of W. G. Baldenhofer that Baldenhofer had a business partner by the name of Farish. It appears “The Farish Baldenhofer Sale” was a made-up name used for the sale. W. G. “Bill” Baldenhofer was his real name, not Farish Baldenhofer. There was a medium grade date and type set of early dollars in this sale. These may or may not have been consigned by Baldenhofer. Regardless, I knew Baldenhofer’s early dollar collection was much larger than what was in the 1955 Stack’s sale. [For more information see *The Asylum*, Volume 25, Number 2, Spring 2007: “Who was Farish Baldenhofer?”]

Baldenhofer’s name also appeared in pedigrees in the Superior Galleries 1975 A.N.A. Sale. I also picked up some letters to and from him over the years. I knew he collected silver dollars but could not piece together his entire collection.

Around 2003-4 I purchased two portable file cabinets of notes and correspondence on early dollars from Jacque Ostheimer. She and her husband Alfred J. Ostheimer III collected and studied the early dollars. They were not active collectors until the late 1950s.

Much to my surprise there was a series of letters and listings between dealer M. H. Bolender and the Ostheimers regarding the *en bloc* purchase of the extensive Baldenhofer Collection of silver dollars which included early dollars by die marriage, Gobrecht and Seated Dollars, and Morgan and Peace Dollars. I now knew all that was the Baldenhofer’s early dollar collection! Bolender had immediately sold the entire Baldenhofer silver dollar collection to the Ostheimers. This took place around 1959-60.

Kenneth P. Austin was from Salisbury, MD. He began collecting early dollars by die marriage by purchasing all the 1795 Dollars from the 1952 sale of Bolender’s Reference Collection of early dollars. I learned this by acquiring at auction Austin’s personal copy of the Bolender sale, complete with 3 documents including the sale invoice from Bolender. [For more information see the *John Reich Journal*, Volume 19 / Issue 2, December 2008: “Early Dollar Specialist K.P. Austin of Salisbury, Maryland.” This issue is available to view on the Newman Portal.]

Jules Reiver knew K. P. Austin. Jules gave me a copy of Austin’s collection with cost code and sources of early dollar purchases that Austin had given him. I had a good feel for what was in the collection but could not find a public sale of the collection anywhere. Austin’s name showed up in pedigrees in the 1968 Lester Merkin Auction

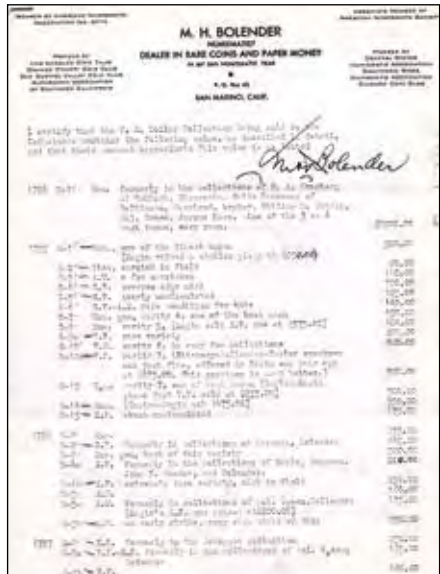


This is a page from Walter Breen's copy of the 1975 A.N.A. Sale catalog with this lot viewing notations. The Goldberg's and the cataloger provided great pedigree information. Note the mention of Baldenhofer and Austin pedigrees on the lots on this page. These were clues for me. When I first saw a copy of this catalog I had not seen anything public or private on early dollar collections by someone named Baldenhofer and someone named Austin.

This is a copy of page 1 of the Bolender purchase and sale of the W. G. Baldenhofer early dollar collection. Bolender sold this collection to the Ostheimers. I acquired the Ostheimer correspondence, notes, and items like this invoice from Mrs. Ostheimer. I also have the same for the K. P. Austin Collection.



I was given W. Earl Spies heavily annotated copy of this First Edition Bolender Early Dollar Book. This page shows notes for the 1798 B-33 die marriage. The book and a letter I came across show Spies discovered this die marriage (probably in the 1950s) despite a 1974 Coin World article announcing the discovery of the B-33 die marriage by another collector and dealer. This marriage is rated R-8 today, with three examples known.



Sale and 1975 A.N.A. Sale, along with a few other sales over the years.

I also found correspondence and listings for the Austin collection in the Ostheimer correspondence that I had purchased. Like Baldenhofer, Austin sold his collection *en bloc* to Bolender, and Bolender then sold it to the Ostheimers! This was around 1960.

As a side note, it took me a while, but I was eventually able to talk with Austin a few times on the phone. The first time I was able to talk with him I asked about his collection and library. He said that “all my records were “lost or stolen!” I replied, “Mr. Austin, I think I can help you.” I sent him copies of everything I had listed above, recreating his collection! I even had his bourse floor notebook with photos of the rare die marriages. The records had not been “lost or stolen.” Austin had given them to Bolender when Bolender bought his collection, and Bolender in turn had given them to the Ostheimers. Austin sent me a set of photos of all Bolender’s 1795 Dollars as thanks.

The W. Earl Spies Collection of early dollars was sold by Stack’s in December 1974 as *The W. Earl Spies Collection of U.S. Silver Dollars 1794-1803*. Spies collected the early dollars by die marriage and die state and had 236 early dollars in his collection when sold in 1974. I tracked down his son and learned Earl Spies collected silver dollars in the 1950s and 1960s, had a stroke in 1971, and a second one in 1977 that ended his collecting.

I have Spies’ heavily annotated first edition of the Bolender book along with a handful of key auction sales he had participated in.

This leaves the lone coin firm / dealer name that I am including, the Hollinbeck Coin Co. This firm was owned by Art and Paul Kagin. I had seen pedigrees mentioning the “Taylor-Kagin” pedigree. This begged the question, did one of the Kagin’s collect the early dollars, and who was “Taylor?”

I spoke with Art on a few occasions. Art liked the early dollars, and importantly, Art eventually told me that he purchased the entire Emanuel Taylor Collection of silver dollars in 1959. Taylor was an avid collector of silver dollars including early dollars by die marriage. Taylor’s extensive silver dollar collection was offered in a little-known Fixed Price List titled, “*Americas Outstanding Collection of Silver Dollars*.”

Many of the Taylor Early and Seated Dollars “reappeared” in two 1995 Bowers & Merena Sales but were not pedigreed in the catalog to either the Kagin’s or Emanuel Taylor. [For more information see *The Asylum*, Volume XXIII, Number 4, Fall 2005: “A rare but Little Known Fixed Price List: America’s Outstanding Collection of Silver Dollars for Sale at Fixed Prices.]

I purchased the Hollinbeck Coin Co.’s copy of the first edition of the Bolender Book (1950) from Function Associates, a numismatic literature dealer if I remember correctly. Laid in was a want list and two-page letter from Earl Spies.

Today I have a good general library of numismatic literature along with a specialized library centered around the early dollars 1794-1804. I still have a copy of the Red Book (maybe it is a year old....) and long ago ran out of room to store every issue of *Coin World*.



Diving into Collecting

By Mack Phillips

I got really interested in collecting books some 30 years ago. I don't have pictures as the cameras and computers I've had in past years were difficult. With some help I could probably get rolling again.



I "dove" into coin collecting in 1950 when one of my teachers gave me a 1904 nickel. In no time I found a 1912 dime which excited me: it was my mother's birth year! About a month after the dime I got a 1906 half dollar at my local theater and collecting mushroomed for me after that.

I've always been interested in books, especially in the last 30 years. I have a complete set of "Bluebooks." I have complete sets of "Redbooks"—hard cover, soft cover, and hidden spiral.

I also have about 200 Hardy Boys and 200 Nancy Drew books. Each of these include complete sets of several editions, with some scarce books.

I'm ready to sell my books. I've enjoyed them for years. I'm ready to let somebody else enjoy them. I don't think my collections could be duplicated. I can supply more information if desired.



 Women In Numismatics WomenInNumismatics.com	<p>Founded in 1991, WIN is the premiere organization for women in the field of numismatics.</p> <p>As a nationally incorporated nonprofit, our chartered goals are to encourage fellowship and learning through networking and social events, as well as offering educational seminars, scholarship programs, and our semi-annual literary publication, <i>Winning Ways</i>.</p> <p>President Charmy Harker is leading the board in a revitalization of WIN, focusing on expanding membership and providing social-media platforms for members to connect, discuss, and promote their brands.</p> <p>Collector or dealer, novice or expert, we invite you to join us in the largest and most respected organization for Women In Numismatics.</p>
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP*	Mail to: Women In Numismatics • Cindy Wibker, Secretary PO Box 471147 • Lake Monroe, FL 32747-1147 cwibker@aol.com
Regular Membership \$25 Associate Membership ¹ \$10 Junior Membership ² \$5	Payable January 1st each year • Please enclose check with your application Questions? www.womeninnumismatics.com/contact-us
THANK YOU!	Name: _____
 Find us on Facebook	Address: _____
	City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
	Email: _____
	Referred By: _____
	Significant Other to Regular Member: _____
	Signature: _____
	Date: _____
	<small>¹ Significant Other to a Regular Member ² Age 18 or Younger</small>

Our Numismatic and Language Library

By Martin Purdy

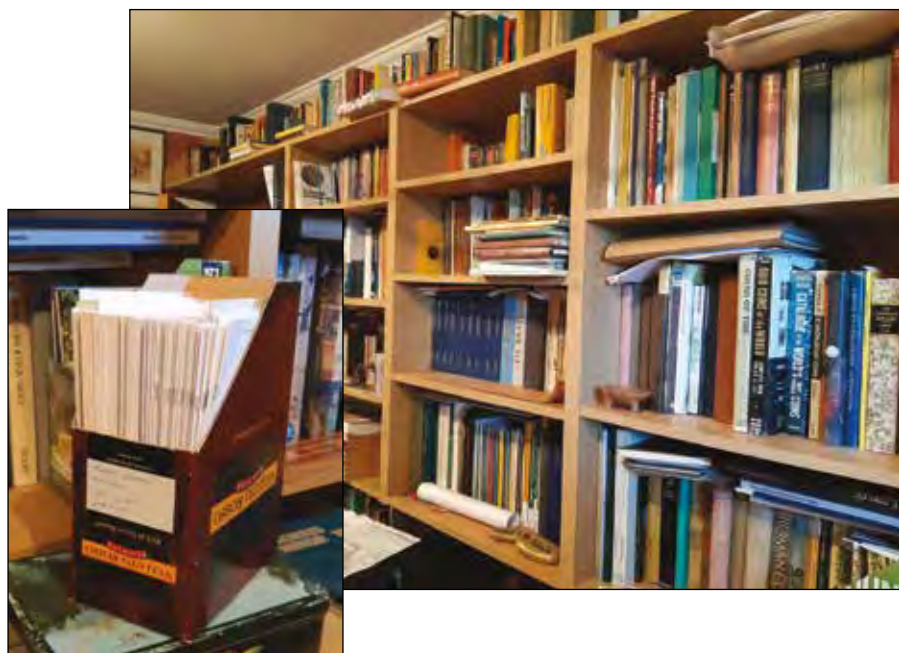
For our numismatic and language library—there's a connection of sorts between the two—we fitted a spare bedroom with shelving, a bench and some cabinets, but didn't allow for the width of these fittings when considering the future use of the room, which means the central area is now a little too wide to be a walkway, and a little too narrow to house any useful tables and chairs. This floor space tends to be used for extra storage accordingly.

The book holdings have grown, with significant additions from estate lots and defunct club collections in addition to our own individual purchases over the years, and items we need to draw on more regularly are kept on equally extensive shelving in our home office.

While we try to keep books grouped by theme, there's a certain element of filing under "S" for "Size" involved, so it's something of a hybrid arrangement.

Focal points of the numismatic library are New Zealand and Pacific themes, and also NZ commemorative medals and challenge coins, as a result of my having been involved in preparing catalogues in these latter fields in the past 12 years or so. An interest in the coinage of Scotland led to the acquisition of some older titles, in particular the three volumes of Burns (1887) and Cardonnel's *Numismata Scotiae* (1786).

Somewhere along the way we discovered that cardboard wine boxes with a 10-cm triangle cut out of one corner make an ideal storage unit for A5-format magazines



and newsletters.

One item adorning the wall has a numismatic connection that is not immediately obvious: a framed attendance certificate for the New Zealand Centennial Exhibition of 1939–40. The artwork was by Leonard C. Mitchell, who designed numerous coins and stamps for this country, and there is more than a passing echo of his 1940 Centennial Halfcrown design in its arrangement.



My Red Book Collection

By Samuel S. Rowe

My entry into the hobby of coin and Red and Blue Book collecting started in 1953 when I was 11 years old.

My after-school delivery of the Quincy Patriot Ledger in my hometown of Hingham, Massachusetts, is where my hobby began. When I got home on Fridays after collecting the weekly delivery money, (and some tips), from my paper route customers, I would go over the change my customers gave me and search for new and old coins. Sometimes I would ask some of my older customers if they had any old coins I could look at, sometimes they made my day when they gave them to me. I would then put the coins in the Whitman coin folders trying to fill one of each date and mint mark.

Another source of finding coins for my collection in downtown Hingham was working at Hennessey's Store in the Hobby and Toy Department and in Center Hingham at Jane Fanning's Gift Shop when she asked me to work when she would take some afternoons off.

My first *Handbook of United States Coins* was the Eleventh Edition of the Blue Book. As my coin collection grew every couple of years or so I would purchase a current Blue or Red Book.

About 15 years ago I began adding to my Red and Blue book collection. I would purchase a current copy and also look for other issues at used and donated book



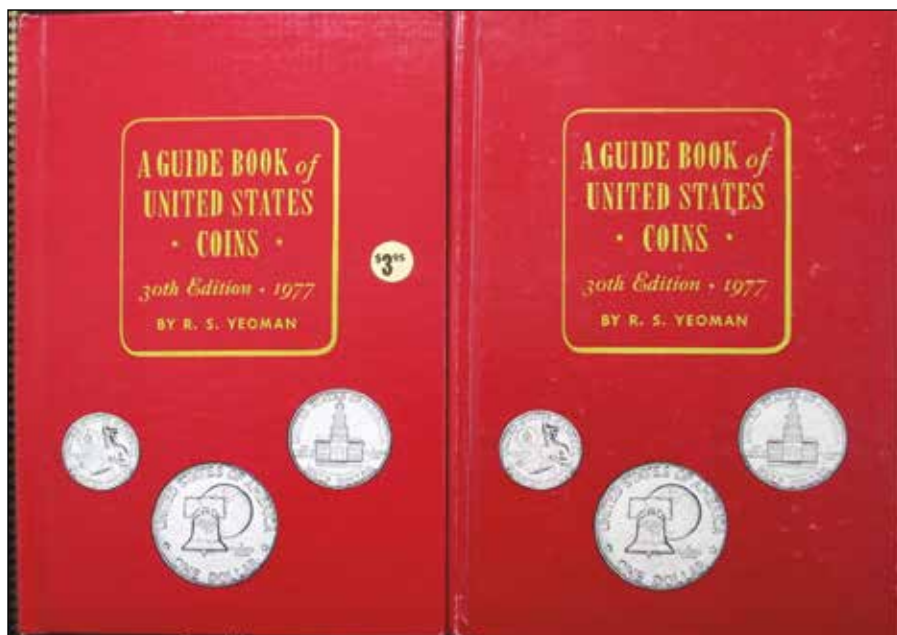


stores. I carried a handwritten list of the book years and conditions of the books I had at the time in my collection and then go to the bookstores and look for fill-in years. At that time I had no idea that there were a lot more than yearly issues of Red Books.

My introduction to the Special Editions segment of the Red Book Collector Hobby started in 2010 when I read Susan Headley's article in "About.com" Hobbies and Games titled "U.S. Soldier Completes His Dream Collection." (Which was also published in E-Sylum Volume 13, Number 24, June 13, 2010, Article 8). U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Warren S. White Scott's most elusive collecting endeavor was to compile a complete collection of the U.S. Coins Red Books. Scott had found that his dream collection was missing the highly sought after 500 print run of the 1987 40th Anniversary Red Book with the Special ANA Cover, and he was quite vigilant in his quest to locate a copy of that edition, finally locating a copy from a dealer in Wisconsin.

Scott may have been very happy to find a Special Edition which only had a pint run of 500, but runs of 500 or less of Special and Leather Editions continue to be published. Highlighted by the 135 copy print run of the 2008 61st Edition of the Numismatic Literary Guild Leather Edition, at present valued in the 2020 Red Book Collectable Red and Blue Book section at \$900.00, which possibly could fetch a moderately higher value if one becomes available.

After reading Susan Headley's article I began a more concerted effort to locate "fill in" copies for my collection by going to eBay, Amazon, Alibris, and AbeBooks. As things progressed I sometimes made a great purchase and other times I received what had been described as "Very Good" turning out to be Very Bad, Poor. I never returned any of the questionable copies as I was afraid I might not find a better copy,



thus it took me multiple purchases of some of the early Red Books to get a copy that was considered Very Good to Fine as advertised. So to narrow my search and obtain higher quality editions I searched for Numismatic Literature and contacted Orville Grady, Charles Davis, and Kolbe and Fanning.

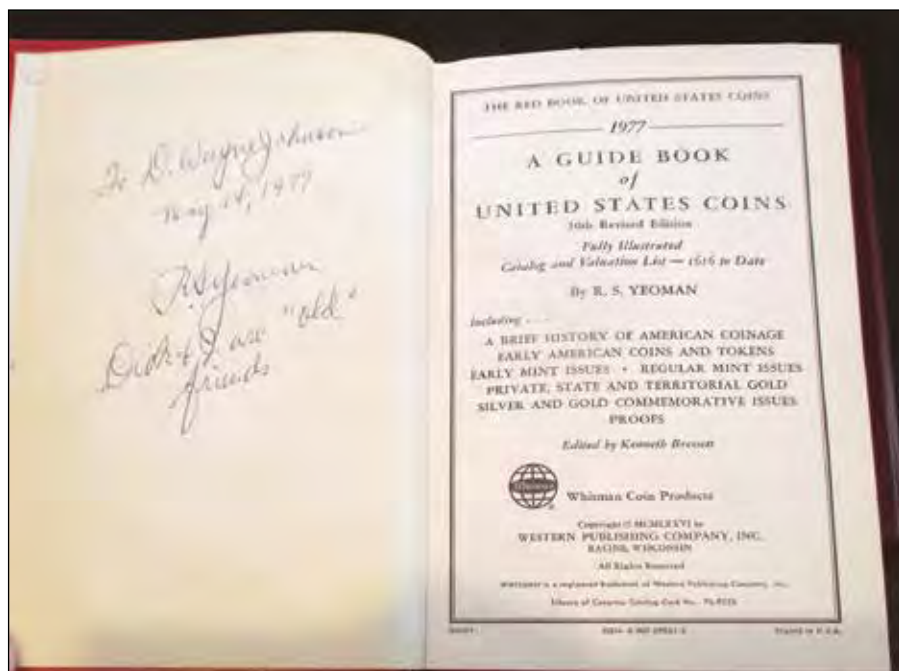
From 2013 and continuing today, I have added to my collection. The collection includes the multiple copies of the 1st to the 74th Edition Red Books, multiple copies of the 18 Leather Limited Editions, and multiple copies of the 20 Special Editions.

Also in the collection are error editions which include multiple copies of the 1963 16th Edition with a missing page, (one signed by Yeoman), multiple editions with cover printing errors, three Interleaved Editions one 1962 15th Edition and two 1967 20th Editions, and a 31st and 32nd Edition unbound advance copies as issued, sewn, end papers affixed. Five Red Book Editions, 1985, 1990, 1991, 2001 and 2005 stamped outside of the Whitman Press and thus not included in the Red Book List of Special Editions.

There are many other editions that I have in my collection with special notes and the collector's name and library. I.e. a 1977 30th Edition "non-spotted" cover edition.

At present my effort is centered on obtaining signed copies for the years in my collection where I do not have a signed copy. With 324 Red Books presently in my collection, (131 signed editions [including a signed copy of the 1987 40th Anniversary Red Book with the Special ANA Cover, a 1977 30th Edition signed twice by Yeoman and twenty-nine others on May 14th 1977], a 2008 150th ANS Anniversary Leather Edition, and 93 Blue Books, (one of the two 1942 Editions in my collection signed), I definitely fall into the same category expressed by Susan Headley in her article.

Where Susan said, "with so many different versions of the Red Book coming out each year now Scott might be spending more money on Red Books than he does on



the coins they describe!” Let me assure you that I can add “and previous years” after the word now to the sentence above.



My Library and What It Means To Me

By Shanna Schmidt

Most people that know me understand at some point that my numismatic library is extremely important to me. When I became self-employed in Sept, 2016, one of the first purchases I made was a private sale of books from Herb Kreindler consisting of his many catalogs. Many of these catalogs have been annotated which is a real find for any working numismatist. Finding a great pedigree sometimes can result in a difference of hundreds of dollars in a sale price. At the beginning of being self-employed and having no inventory to speak of, I found myself in a bit of a rough situation. I had to start earning money and my plan was to offer auction representation and then fund my inventory with the money earned there. This plan worked great but I still had to consider attributions. While many of my colleagues rely completely on *CoinArchives*, I also know that there are variations on most coins that require checking a reference. I was fortu-



nate enough to have a client/personal friend of mine help me to assemble my library. While I am only a temporary holder of some of the books it gives me time to get my own copy as money comes in and still have a copy in the meantime. I also have the luxury of owning some of the most spectacular of editions available on the market. Ten of my favorites are:

1. Ernst Julius Haeberlin's massive two volume set of Aes Grave. This was published in 1910 and the plates are in a folio size red leather bound book. This was purchased in the Künker electronic auction 258 in December, 2019.
2. The nine-volume set of Ernest Babelon's *Traité des Monnaies Grecques et Romaines*. This original edition set was formerly in the collection of a well-known Los Angeles dealer and was sold in the CNG Literature auction in July, 2019.
3. An original and annotated copy of Edward T. Newell's, *The Dated Alexander Coinage of Sidon and Ake*. This is Newell's personal copy, has his own book plate inside and is filled with his own notes of additional coins he found after publication in 1916. This was purchased from the Kolbe & Fanning 156 in May, 2020.
4. An almost complete set of Naville Ars Classica auctions starting in 1921 with the Pozzi sale and going until 1938. This was purchased over several auctions and each volume typically resulted in a bidding war. I never purchased one for less than \$75 and most were in the \$200-300 range.
5. The two-volume set of Calciati's *Corpus Nummorum Siculorum. La monetazione di bronzo*. This hard-to-find set was purchased in the Jacquier auction 44 in September 2018.
6. Likely one of the most expensive books I personally bought was the 1905 Jacob Hirsch auction XIII. This is the famous Rhousopoulis collection and was the private copy of the BCD. He had it beautifully bound. I purchased this in the Jacquier auction 44 in September 2018.
7. My extensive sets from the Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum (SNG) series. I own the ANS, Copenhagen, Von Aulock, Levante (Switzerland), France, Ashmolean, Tübingen, Sweden, Israel and Collection Réna H. Evelpidis (Athens). These have been purchased from several auctions over the past four years.
8. A complete set of Numismatic Chronicles. I started buying these as individual copies and then lucked out and purchased the entire set from CNG privately. Now I just have to remember to keep renewing my membership to the Royal Numismatic Society so I can keep adding to my library!

9. An original two volume set of Emanuele Giulio Rizzo's monumental work, *Monete Greche Della Sicilia*. I first purchased this on behalf of my customer back in Jan of 2019. I then was able to buy my own copy in the last Kolbe and Fanning auction of May 2020. I paid a considerable amount for my set but much less than what the original cost.
10. The 169 volume set of American Numismatic Society's *Numismatic Notes & Monographs*. This set goes from 1920-2009. This was purchased at the Kolbe & Fanning 2018 New York International auction.

At the time of the writing I am proud to say that I have 806 individual books sets or publications, some of which are large sets. I've started to focus more on getting important auction catalogs that are pre-2000 since most can then be found via online.

I continue to be a big buyer at numismatic book auctions despite owning a fair amount. To be frank, my small house is bursting at the seams with books but acquisition will probably never really cease. There are so many new publications appearing on the market. I know in this world of "everything online" I am a bit of a dinosaur but I appreciate the feel of a good book and the old fashioned way of looking up coins. I still use the internet for attribution more than I would like but it is nice to look around my room and see a beautiful library before my eyes.

I'm grateful to all the book dealers who have helped me along the way. Not only have I gotten some amazing books but I've formed friendships that will last a lifetime.



Never Enough Space

By Keith Scott

About 8 years ago I salvaged over 1000 pounds of wide, thick, and old oak flooring. I built a wall unit 11 feet wide and floor to ceiling with a cabinet below and a huge drawer for office supplies. All the time thinking of the pictures of library ladders, circular staircases, beautiful wood and artwork, not to forget the books themselves. Filling it was satisfying until I realized there wasn't enough room.

I added 6 more small shelf units that were embedded into walls and behind doors or out-of-the-way areas. These are in non-loadbearing, interior walls 16 inches above floor level and don't interfere with electrical outlets. Shelf length is 18 to 32 inches, each unit is 7 to 15 feet of total shelf length, and depth is 9 inches. Still not enough space!

I started watching a series on T.V. called *Hoarders* and about the same time I cleaned out an entire house by myself. It was obvious that something had to go. I sorted over 400 pounds of numismatic catalogues, and over 35 years of *National Geographic* (saved the maps and 8 issues total). I brought them to coin shows with the famous FREE sign. All disappeared. *Architectural Digest*, *Byte*, and a number of building journals were next and still being processed. Even the numismatic were targeted after extracting select pages. They too would go to coin club meetings and shows, including a 19th century library table and 2 other shelves there is nearly 240 feet of total shelf



length. A few short shelves exist for coffee table books to lie horizontal (such as *The Complete Far Side* with slipcase).

After all the effort, the numismatic part is nearly distilled and ordered by category, age, and those with special storage needs. The total shelf length is nearly 40 feet and includes those pesky ancient history books. Nothing is left on the floor—piles not allowed.

I work with the Friends of the Library and can process over a ton of books for a sale in less than 4 hours (window shopping all the time).

Books Anonymous, anyone?



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Sixty Years of Collecting

By Bruce Smith

My interest in coins began about sixty years ago when my grandmother gave a family accumulation of mostly foreign coins to my brother and me to split. There was some talk of a world traveling uncle, but nothing that was substantiated. I was six or seven. Being five years younger than my brother, I went for big shiny things that featured writing (at least I assumed it was writing) that I could not understand nor even read. My brother, more savvy, found the Turban Head cents and Standing Liberty quarters in the mix. No books were involved, so it was a few years before the Hardy Boys had to move over to make room on my shelf for the Red Book and the Blue Book.

Fast forward a few (or more) decades. “Buy the book before the coin” made sense, but the Breen encyclopedia was a hundred bucks, and a C-note went a long way in my emerging adult coin budget. As my collecting tastes changed from U.S. type material to more esoteric avenues, however, the critical importance of standard references such as Fuld on Civil War tokens or Swiatek or Breen on Early Commemoratives became obvious, and that has been the case ever since. Sometimes just having a copy of the book for reference isn’t enough either. The Quaterman reprint of Crosby is certainly adequate, but you really need an original.

When my interests expanded to include Colonial material, the enlargement of my collecting sphere couldn’t have come at a better time. The amount of research that has been published in the last twenty years is staggering. A look at the list of works published by C4 is all the evidence needed to support that claim. Everything from my friend Chris McDowell’s groundbreaking biography of Able Buell to the massive tome on New Jersey coppers testify to the fact that this is a good time to be collecting colonials. Regarding the latter book, I’ll aver that buying the book before the coin can lead, in fact, to buying the coin, or more than one. Somehow I find myself perilously sliding from being a serious Connecticut variety collector with a few New Jerseys “for type” to someone who somehow has a couple dozen of the damn things, and each time one comes home, down comes the book to learn about the new variety.



As the photos attest, my library spills out of the bookcases that I have available. I can keep a couple manageable stacks by the reading chair, but then what? I have a lot of catalogs, maybe those could go. I've pared down their number, but we all know that there are certain sales that have to be represented with a hard copy despite their availability online. Others? Well, those Stack's Americana sales from a few years ago are a blast to thumb through. Wouldn't it be great to have a few American sales again?

As a final note, one bookcase is devoted to works of history that are not necessarily numismatic. *The Oxford illustrated History of Britain and Everyday Life in Early America* complement, expand, and enrich numismatic understanding of the times. I just picked up John M. Barry's *Roger Williams and the Creation of the American Soul*. I doubt that a coin will be mentioned in the book's 400 odd pages, but I'll wager my understanding of the history of colonial America will deepen.



My Library Evolution

By Pete Smith

In 1975 my numismatic library probably took about a foot of shelf space. I had books with blue covers and red covers and some grading guides. I had a book on world coins by Craig and another world coin guide the size of our city phone book. My library evolved as my collecting interests changed.

Then on November 6, 1976, I bought a 1793 large cent and was introduced to Dick Punched. He convinced me to buy a copy of *Penny-Whimsy*. Over the next few years I bought many references on early cents, half cents and Colonials.

Dick had an extensive library of auction catalogs. The nice thing was that I could always look up something in his library so I did not need to duplicate it. I started getting auction catalogs as I pursued a collection of early cents.

In 1981, Dick told me about a local guy who had started selling numismatic literature out of a storefront near where I lived. I drove up to introduce myself to Remy Bourne. I started to buy auction catalogs and fill in some gaps in copper references.

On February 26, 1989, I went with Wayne Anderson to visit Kent Froseth, a local dealer. Kent had a U.S. Mint medal of James Ross Snowden (MT-3) for sale at \$50. Wayne convinced me to buy it. Once I had the medal, I needed to buy the appropriate references.

I spent a lot of money at the Jack Robinson sale in January, 1989. As I reviewed my collection and the remaining holes, I figured that the next coin for my collection would cost \$5000. If I had \$5000 to spend, would I rather have one more hole filler or 100 Mint Medals? I decided to pursue the medals and the references to go with them.

In June of 1989 I was laid off from a good job and my discretionary funds dried up. I learned that Cal Wilson had abandoned plans to publish a book of numismatic biographies and so I took on the project. Remy Bourne let me look for biographical entries in his copies of *The Numismatist* and the *American Journal of Numismatics*.

Remy had a complete run of *Coin World* and *Numismatic News* in his office. When he closed his office, he offered them to me. I brought home about 40 cases of newspapers and piled them along a wall in the kitchen of my one bedroom apartment.

I made a tough decision. After I reviewed each issue, they went out to the recycling bin. I couldn't afford to devote the space to keeping them and I found no market to sell them. That is something that Remy had already figured out.

I only needed one copy of *Penny-Whimsy* to attribute early cents, but I now have eight books written by Sheldon. My interest in mint medals led me to buy a copy of Loubat. Now I have eight volumes related to Loubat and two Loubat medals. After getting the Dickeson encyclopedia, I bought three more books about the Mississippi panorama. William Woodin contributed to a book on patterns. Following the logic of my collection, I bought sheet music written by William Woodin. Or perhaps, there is no logic, just a compulsion to collect.

In 1991, Bill Noyes had his first books on large cents published in Bloomington, Minnesota. For the 1991 ANA convention, I rode with Bill Daehn to deliver the first

copies to market. I had realized that I could not afford all the books I wanted so I never bought a copy of the Noyes books.

In the Spring 2020 issue of *The Asylum*, I told of my interest in collecting references and objects related to the history of the U.S. Mint. I have postcards, envelopes, photographs, trade cards and association times related to various numismatists. Is there anyone else who collects numismatic mirrors? The line between my coin collection and my library can get blurry.

A few association items can grow to become an entire collection. A hundred items related to A. M. Smith could make a nice exhibit and I would have much left over.

In January of 2011, I started work on a book about the coinage of 1792. I scoured my auction catalogs and pulled out all those with related sales. They went into four Bankers Boxes that cluttered my living room floor for years. If I started that project now, I could probably find all of those catalogs online.

In August of 2015, I received a call from Doug Law. He had sold his house and was disposing of his collection of auction catalogs. It took two trips in my car to bring them all home. I calculated that there were 619 catalogs and a weight of 1262 pounds.

I contacted David Hill at the American Numismatic Society to see if I could fill any gaps in their library. I shipped them 8 cartons with 230 catalogs weighing 419 pounds. I also donated some catalogs through my local coin club and shipped two boxes to the ANA.

I packed the catalogs I wanted in boxes that are stacked in my bedroom. I seldom have any reason to refer to them. It is so much more easy to find then on the Newman Numismatic Portal.

I made another difficult decision that there was no market for the catalogs I did not want. The Newman Numismatic Portal is a wonderful reference but puts a wet blanket on the sale of recent catalogs. In some cases I cut one page out of a catalog and threw away the rest. Then 234 catalogs weighing 464 pounds went in the trash.

My library never expanded into the spare room or the garage. I still live in the same one bedroom apartment where I lived when I met Dick Punchard. I am sure that if I had more space, I would have filled it.

The apartment building where I lived for 44 years was sold and the new owners would not extend my lease. They want to renovate the unit and raise the rent. Forced by circumstances, I am buying a condominium about five miles from my apartment.

I gave my eighty year collection of *The Numismatist* to a member of my local coin club. I looked through my twenty-first century auction catalogs and put more than 200 pounds in the trash. That leaves 88 boxes of catalogs to move. Many of those are in five inch magazine files that can go right on the shelf.

The library in my condominium will have a new look and different arrangement. I am still trying to figure that out.



Note: Images of “The Challenging Literature of A. M. Smith” may be found on the NBS website at https://www.coinbooks.org/about/exhibit_amsmith.html Images of “Numismatist Association Items,” “Numismatist Mirrors,” “S. H. Zahm Trade Cards,” and “Civil War Envelopes” may be found on the Newman Numismatic Portal.

Evolution of a Numismatic Library

By Brian R. Stickney

Believe it or not, my first numismatic library was that of the Library of Congress (LOC). Following graduate school in the late 1960s, studying economics, I entered active duty in the army and was assigned to Washington, DC for three years. I had developed a peripheral interest in numismatics while in school, given my interest in money and banking with a focus on Latin America. I had published one pamphlet, *A Numismatic History of the Republic of Panama*, which was largely an expanded catalogue with selected historical background. But I wanted to provide more in-depth information for future numismatic endeavors, namely addressing the “how and why” selected countries adopted, sustained, and ultimately abandoned a variety of monetary regimes.

The Library of Congress was an ideal place to do such research in those days. I spent many Saturdays in the main reading room, at first, getting acquainted with the card catalogue system, then ordering references and, in many cases, xeroxing hundreds of pages of reference material. The drawback was that, while initial book requests were delivered fairly quickly, as the day wore on, orders took an hour or more before reaching my desk. I resolved then that I would have to compile my own library, especially since I did not want to stay in Washington my whole career.

One of the things I learned at the LOC was that as useful as the traditional numismatic catalogues and references might be, there were many other reports and



Balcony view of the Main Reading Room, Library of Congress. Photo courtesy, Library of Congress.

documents which contained the in-depth material I was looking for, especially those relating to Latin America. One of them has been the *Annual Report of the Director of the US Mint* (as well as the Deputy Master of the London Mint), especially for the Republic era (post-1821). What many collectors do not realize is that the US Mint was mandated in the mid-1870s to collect data via the US State Department and report on coinage and related activities around the world, especially for those countries emerging as important trading partners. Thus, I began seeking and buying annual reports of the US and selected foreign mints for my library as they became available. While foreign mint reports were difficult to locate and acquire, the annual reports of the Secretary (Minister) of the Treasury equivalent sometime served as an alternative which also provided more of the political backdrop for monetary policy shifts or changes. Also useful were annual addresses of foreign chiefs of state to their respective legislative bodies often found in legislative records (*Congressional Record* equivalents), most of which, for Latin America, I found on microfilm in the LOC's Law Library. Legislative records are a good place to find coinage legislation, particularly if one is in possession to a publication date or reference numbers. Occasionally, a researcher comes across a compilation of treasury-related legislation, usually published by central banks which emerged in the twentieth century.

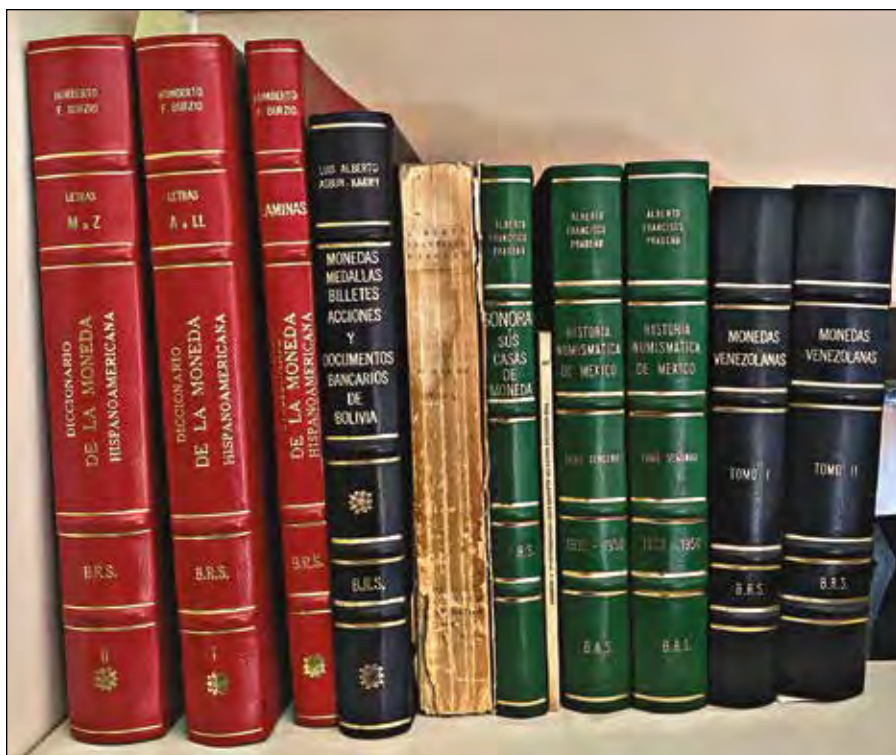
Over the years, I also became aware of a handful of academic works, though not catalogued as numismatic works, per se. My favorite is Carlos Lazo Garcia's three-volume work, in Spanish, on *Peru's Colonial Economy and Monetary Regime* published by Peru's central bank in 1992. Volume three consists of some 500 pages tabulating daily and weekly mintage data, by denomination, for both the mint at Lima (Peru) as well as that of Potosi (Bolivia) from roughly 1600



One of three cabinets holding my numismatic book collection.

through 1825. These were two of the more prolific mints in the history of the world with respect to the issuance of silver coinage. Wilbur Thornton Meek's 1948 doctoral dissertation for Colombia University, *The Exchange Media of Colonial Mexico*, was a rare find I discovered in an upscale book shop in Mexico City. Little known, it contains a wealth of information about Spain's discovery and conquest of Mexico with a focus of attention on their initial use of native trade goods and transition to a bimetallic monetary regime through the first century of occupation. It nicely complements Alberto Pradeau's classic, *The Numismatic History of Mexico From the Pre-Colombian Epoch to 1823*, which is more readily available, published in Los Angeles in 1933. Regarding more modern times, John Parke Young's 1925 Princeton dissertation, *Central American Currency and Finance*, provides a good review of the evolution of banking in Central America to include the abuse of evolving fiat monies. Sometimes one stumbles across long-forgotten documents such as Charles Conant and F.G. Harrison's April 25, 1912 *Report Presenting a Plan of Monetary Reform for Nicaragua* which laid the detailed foundation for the Cordoba regime which has survived to this day.

While serving in Bogota, Colombia during my foreign service career, I became acquainted with an accomplished bookbinder. By then, I had accumulated something



Selected custom bound numismatic references: (1) Red, Burzio's Dictionary of Spanish American Coins (2) Black, Azbun's Coins, Medals, Banknotes, Stock Certificates and Banking Documents of Bolivia (3) Green and disbound, four of Predeau's volumes on Mexican coinage (4) Dark blue, Carlota de Prado's two-volume work on Venezuelan Coins

of a numismatic library, many of which were either softbound or, in the case of some older references, disbound. Colombia, for those who are unaware, produces very fine leather goods of all sorts. I concluded that I had better take advantage of the situation and began having much of my library custom bound in fine leather. Some of the bound works are pictured above.

I tend to be a traditionalist with respect to my library. I like the look and feel of a good book and, frankly, find it easier to read than those digitally appearing online. I do, however, appreciate the broader access now available through digital media. The Newman Numismatic Portal is a godsend. Nearly all Annual Reports of the Director of the US Mint are now readily available, for example. Similarly, the American Numismatic Association has digitized all issues of the Numismatist. For me, I discovered the Hathi Trust online which is a project dedicated to digitizing many foreign government documents online from key materials found in the more prominent university libraries. There, for example, I found the full texts, both in Spanish and English, of the 211-article constitution promulgated November 22, 1824, establishing the ephemeral Central American Federation, better known to numismatists of the Central American Republic. Said document contains several articles establishing their coinage. Needless to say, I have begun a more comprehensive search to build my own file for Latin American numismatic references.



Face sheet of the Central American Federation's constitution, printed in Guatemala City, 1825

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